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The Collegian

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

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St. Mary's to host first ever student film festival



SENIOR STUDENT KASEY JAMES revives the Student Research Grant for her ongoing production of the Bay Area Student Shorts film festival that will include multiple college campuses throughout the Bay Area. (Courtesy of Kasey James)

BY HUNTER HERSHEY
NEWS EDITOR

In an ever-expanding technological age, one of unapologetic self-expression and novel creativity that knows no bounds, the Bay Area encapsulates the soul of all that is accepting and new. And with it, the urge to find new ways to explicate and expound upon the human experience in accessible, bite-size moments of pure revelation and an excess of emotion finds solace here; for this essence too possesses a nature of expansion in search of new canvases to embroider with one's self and exhibit, if only for a matter of minutes, the contents of the creators mind for all who wish to enter.

For an Art Practice Major hailing from Windsor California, who wields the philosophy of creative ingenuity like 16-year-old Spielberg might have with his 8mm Bolex Paillard, the accessibility of such a canvas has birthed what will be uncharted territory for St. Mary's Cam-

pus; student and film-maker Kasey James is the lone pioneer of this region. Taking it upon herself, Kasey seeks a platform that will allow students to showcase their short-films in an accessible, competitive, and inclusive way: inviting all college campuses in the greater Bay Area to take part in the opportunity that is the festival: Bay Area Student Shorts.

B.A.S.S. is the incarnation of years of experience and a dream to encourage Bay Area students to exhibit their work on a platform built just for them. Originating at the crossroads of inquisitiveness of the digital age and a high school class on broadcast journalism, Kasey has spent her recent years cultivating her foundation of cinematic literacy and experience. This began with her

Kasey seeks a platform that will allow students to showcase their short films in an accessible, competitive, and inclusive way.

time working for the Aggregate Space Gallery whence she was referred to Lecturer in Film and Media Studies and Senior Programmer Karen Davis at the Mill Valley Film Festival. Here, Kasey spent the summer researching

films for contention, contacting producers and directors, and acquiring an in-depth understanding of the planning and operation of film festivals so as to, one day, begin the journey of organizing one herself. And she has done just that. But, as all productions of this size, it is an ongoing process with plenty of moving parts.

Following her production assistance on the acclaimed Netflix series 13 Reasons Why, Kasey knew it was time to

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I've paid my dues: "Bohemian Rhapsody" review

BY: HUNTER HERSHEY
NEWS EDITOR

The unmistakable utterance that rings firmly in the ears as "Bohemian Rhapsody" will forever conjure the ear-worms that are certain to follow us to the grave and musical confections that tantalized many of us for years and on. Lasting a gaudy six minutes, the song has held as one of the greatest feats for the flashy, mystical, and melodramatic band, Queen. Though we have all made the leap of listening to this song over and over again, one might admit that one, six-minute playing would suffice...hoping the experience would never end, but instead, continue to evolve and evoke before our ears. I heard once that devoted radio listeners in the mid-

'70s were sure to sit up in their death beds and whisper "Galileo, Galileo, Figaro" with their final breaths.

Now, in stark contrast: "Bohemian Rhapsody," the newly released biopic that details Queen's rise to glamour and all that is excess, though lasting over two hours, evokes an unprecedented sense of restlessness and interminability. In the second of my viewings, I found myself more intrigued by the snoring of the man next to me. It was as though my neighbor's snores were providing the evolution of creativity that the original Queen espoused and that every viewer seeing this film for the first time understood to be absent in this unmemorable rendition — with the exception, however, of Rami Malek's prosthetic teeth worn in the movie, which I am sure to

see in my nightmares for weeks to come.

"Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?" Too am I caught in a landslide of nostalgia and constant escaping moments of reality. Following the format of many other musical biopics, "Bohemian Rhapsody" straddles the thin and ever-shrinking line of biographical reshooting and blasphemous creatural liberty. The film opens with the middle-aged superstar taking the stage for Queen's show-stealing performance at the Live Aid charity concert in 1985 and abruptly flashes back to far younger days in London, 15 years earlier, when a young migrant by the name of Farrokh Bulsara renames himself Freddie Mercury.

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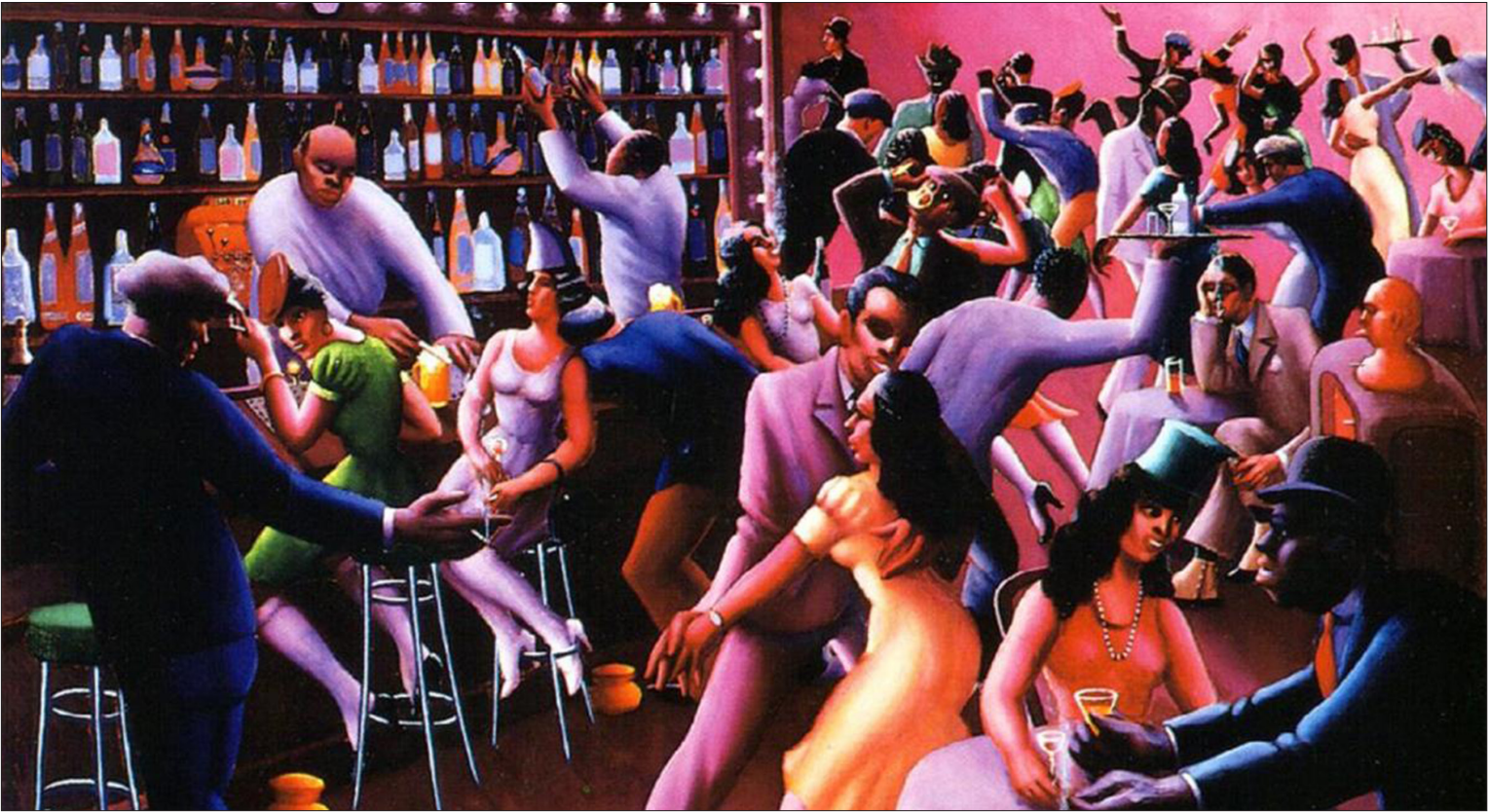


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*"To act upon one's convictions while others wait,
To create a positive force in a world
where cynics abound,
To provide information to people when
it wasn't available before,
To offer those who want it, a choice—"*
—TED TURNER

The Diversity Dance reimagines the 1920s



THE DIVERSITY DANCE was hosted at the Marriott hotel in Walnut Creek and sought to shake social norms by twisting preconceived notions of the 1920s. (Courtesy of History.com)

BY JOSEPH FOARD
STAFF WRITER

This past Friday, Nov. 9, Saint Mary's College held its 29th Annual Diversity Dance in the Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel.

According to the Intercultural Center website, the dance "is a longstanding tradition, where the Saint Mary's community and their guests come together to celebrate diversity in all forms. This semi-formal, off-campus event includes an international buffet dinner, a professional DJ, and photo booth."

"The diversity dance is an annual dance that the Intercultural Center holds as a fun, casual event," said Allison Uba, co-chair of the Diversity Dance Committee. "It's Saint Mary's' only off-campus dance. It's a fun kind of celebration of the different identities on campus, hanging out

with your friends, and eating good food."

The theme of the 2018 Diversity Dance is 'Reinventing the '20s'. According to Uba, diversity dances have always been centered around a specific theme. She says, "last year was kind of an Oscars-party theme, this year we're having a 1920s theme."

We always want to have an incorporation of any social justice issues or events that were going on that kind of correspond with the theme- for last year, we were really focusing on the marginalized identities left out of the Oscars." Uba also emphasized reinvention in the dance's theme, saying, "It's called

reinventing the '20s, because we kind of want to, as we move into the next '20s, show what progress we've made since the 1920s; so we're highlighting what sort of events went on in the 1920s through some fun facts that we'll have there at the dance for people to read."

In previous Diversity Dances, the Concord Crowne Plaza Hotel was chosen as the host location. "We decided to choose a location that was closer to campus so that people would have an easier time commuting," Uba told the Collegian. "We knew that

Concord was a little further and kind of seemed too far to travel for an off-campus dance, so we chose

the Walnut Creek Marriott, which is closer, hoping that people would be more encouraged to go. Also, it's a very fancy hotel, so it's nice to check out, dress up with your friends, and have a night there."

The dance featured a photo booth and a raffle. The raffle had numerous little prizes, and according to Uba, "The grand prize [was] a hotel room, so that's worth \$159- you just buy a \$1 raffle ticket and you could win the hotel room. We also gave away movie tickets, some IC shirts, chargers, popsockets, just a few other prizes to encourage people to buy raffle tickets and try to win something."

The Intercultural Center will be holding numerous events and club meetings leading up to Winter Break; be sure to check out the events calendar on their website at <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/intercultural-center>.

We always want to have an incorporation of social justice issues or events that were going on that correspond to the theme

Political Cartoon: I Think We Missed Our Stop

BY TERRILYN HO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



NEWS

St. Mary’s Student Film Festival



FILM FESTIVALS allow students to express their creativity and voices. (Courtesy of Kasey James)

begin the long-conceived process of establishing a film festival on St. Mary’s campus. She started by meeting with her adviser Andrew Mount, to whom she revealed an exuberance of gratitude and indebtedness for his continual guidance and support of this project, to establish connections deemed essential to the fruition of the festival. She was shortly thereafter awarded the Student Research

Grant for St. Mary’s and the production of the Bay Area Student Shorts festival begun.

Noting the trials and tribulations during her time assisting the Mill Valley Film Festival,

Kasey began with the venue. B.A.S.S. is set to take place at the historic Soda Center on St. Mary’s campus from Feb. 28 to March 1. In the time preceding, students from all Bay Area campuses will be contending for spots to debut their short films ranging from one to thirty minutes in numerous categories including documentaries, experimental films, narratives, and

animation.

The “Call for Entry” began on Nov. 1; however, students have until the submission deadline of Feb. 1 to submit their piece, free of submission fees, via the easily accessible film application on the festival’s website: bayareastudentshorts.com. The films will be judged by a jury of esteemed Performing Arts community members with diverse backgrounds

in film and production who will award the winners of the festival with cash prizes.

If you are interested in playing a role in the making of this historic event, the production team is currently taking applications for interns to assist in marketing and event planning. All majors are encouraged to apply. Likewise, anyone affiliated with food and beverage vendors is welcome to direct their business to kasey@bayareastudentshorts.com.

Please contact Kasey James at kasey@bayareastudentshorts.com, or visit the website bayareastudentshorts.com for any additional information or to submit.

Students from all Bay Area campuses will be contending for spots to debut their short films ranging from one to thirty minutes

Blue emergency poles down throughout campus

BY KEVIN BASMADJIAN
NEWS EDITOR

If you’ve walked around campus recently, you may have seen it - a piece of paper over the control panel on the blue emergency poles reading “out of order, please contact (925) 631-4282 in case of an emergency.”

Throughout campus there are blue emergency phones for, according to the Public Safety and Transportation website, “emergencies, to dial outside of campus, or to call others on campus especially in the following situations: call Public Safety for an escort to your room; report suspicious behavior or unsafe conditions on campus; if you are sick or injured.”

According to Adan Tejada, Chief & Executive Director of Public Safety, they don’t really get used. He says the only time they are used “is sometimes we’ll get prank calls or false calls - where someone just pushes the button and walks away. We haven’t gotten a useable call that I can remember.” Some of the phones at residence halls had keypads “for people to dial the extension of their friends, but since nobody’s really using the landlines in their rooms, those don’t get used anymore either. In terms of how they get used, they basically don’t get used - they’re there as an emergency outlet. But campuses are seeing all over that with the advent of cell phones people don’t really use them.”

There are a total of 48 blue emergency phones located throughout campus - some with their own dedi-

cated poles like those in parking lots, and some built into hallway walls as can be seen near Sichel Hall.

There are 18 poles out of order at the moment.

As for the reason why, Tejada says “the campus moved to a voice over IP phone system for its main phone system, and at that time a lot of the phones went down.”

Public Safety is currently working on alleviating the problem, and Tejada continues, “we have, as recently as September, had a vendor come out to help us with getting the phones back into service. We have a list of things that need to get ordered, and some solutions for the [phones] that may not work with the new system- that’s where we’re at right now.”

When he first joined Public Safety, there was no section of the annual budget allocated for phone repairs. Tejada says “the campus has corrected that, and there actually is an annual budget now for the phones. We have been going around campus and about once a year replacing a phone - one or two of the wall units per year, like the Assumption Hall parking lot, the Rec. Center, and one up by North Claey’s - so every year we try and pick the phone that looks like it’s the worst repair and slate that for the next replacement.”

While the out of order phones will be back up shortly, something Tejada strongly recommends all students use is the LiveSafe app. Public Safety uses the app to send out emergency alerts, and students can use it to call them directly or leave an anonymous tip.

Campus Calendar

Fac Chats

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 1 p.m.
Intercultural Center
Contact: Legacy Lee
(925) 631-8358
lrl2@stmarys-ca.edu

Study Abroad

Information Sessions
Wednesday, Nov. 14
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 19
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 20
2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Brother Jerome West Hall, 130
Contact: International Programs
studyabroad@stmarys-ca.edu

Dante on Getting Lost and Going Wrong

Wednesday, Nov. 14
1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Hagarty Lounge
Contact: Rebecca Engle
rengle@stmarys-ca.edu

Graphic Arts Docent Tours

Wednesday, Nov. 14
1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Museum of Art: Hearst Gallery

Dine with Alums

Wednesday, Nov. 14
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Soda Center, Claey’s Lounge
Contact: CPDS (925) 631-4600

Graduate Business Information Session for SEBA Students

Wednesday, Nov. 14
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Brother Urban Gregory Hall
Contact: (925) 631-4888
smcmba@stmarys-ca.edu.

Graduate Student Reading Series

Wednesday, Nov. 14
7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Hagerty Lounge

Jazz Band Concert

Thursday, Nov. 15
7:30 p.m.
Soda Center, Claey’s Lounge
Contact: John Maltester
maltester@comcast.net

“Limbo” Dance Concert

Thursday, Nov. 15
8 p.m.
LeFevre Theatre
Contact: Tara Sundy
tms8@stmarys-ca.edu

Wake Up Wednesday

Wednesday, Nov. 28
9 to 11 a.m.
Filippi Hall, Main Lobby
*Interact with SEAS Coach/
Housing/Library with
free coffee & donut*

The Campus Calendar column is a service highlighting major events of the week. To include your event, email details to staff@stmaryscollegian.com.

“Three Sisters” gets two thumbs up



HANNAH KHEIL '19, KIMIYA SHOKRI '19, AND NAOMI KALTER '22 embody Chekov's masterpiece in director Frank Murray's swan song. (Courtesy of SMC)

BY ABIGAIL THOMPSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This Halloween, the Theatre Department debuted their production of Anton Chekhov’s “Three Sisters.” The only spooky happenings on this night: the fright of this hauntingly beautiful performance. This three hour art piece sold out four of its showings and for good reason. The play centers around three sisters, Olga, Masha, and Irina (played by Hannah Keihl ’19, Kimiya Shokri ’19, Naomi Kalter ’22 respectively), who are living life in a nostalgic haze after the death of

their father. The three pine for their former lives in Moscow and attempt to cope with their deeply mundane and disappointing lives in a simple military town lacking an intellectual life.

The show is a treat for the inquisitive mind as all of the conflict and action plays out in the details. Much of the action and conflict take place in the small moments and in the sub-text. Requiring all of the actors to be very in touch with the inner life

of their characters. I had the opportunity to speak with actress Kimiya Shokri to discuss her experience in such an emotionally demanding role.

According to Shokri, the most difficult part of playing a character like Masha was “bringing balance to her because she is written as someone who is angry at the world, who is experiencing so much pain emotionally, [and] it was really hard for me at first to make her multidimensional...but a note

The show is a treat for the inquisitive mind as all of the conflict and action plays

was “bringing balance to her because she is written as someone who is angry at the world, who is experiencing so much pain emotionally, [and] it was really hard for me at first to make her multidimensional...but a note

CULTURE

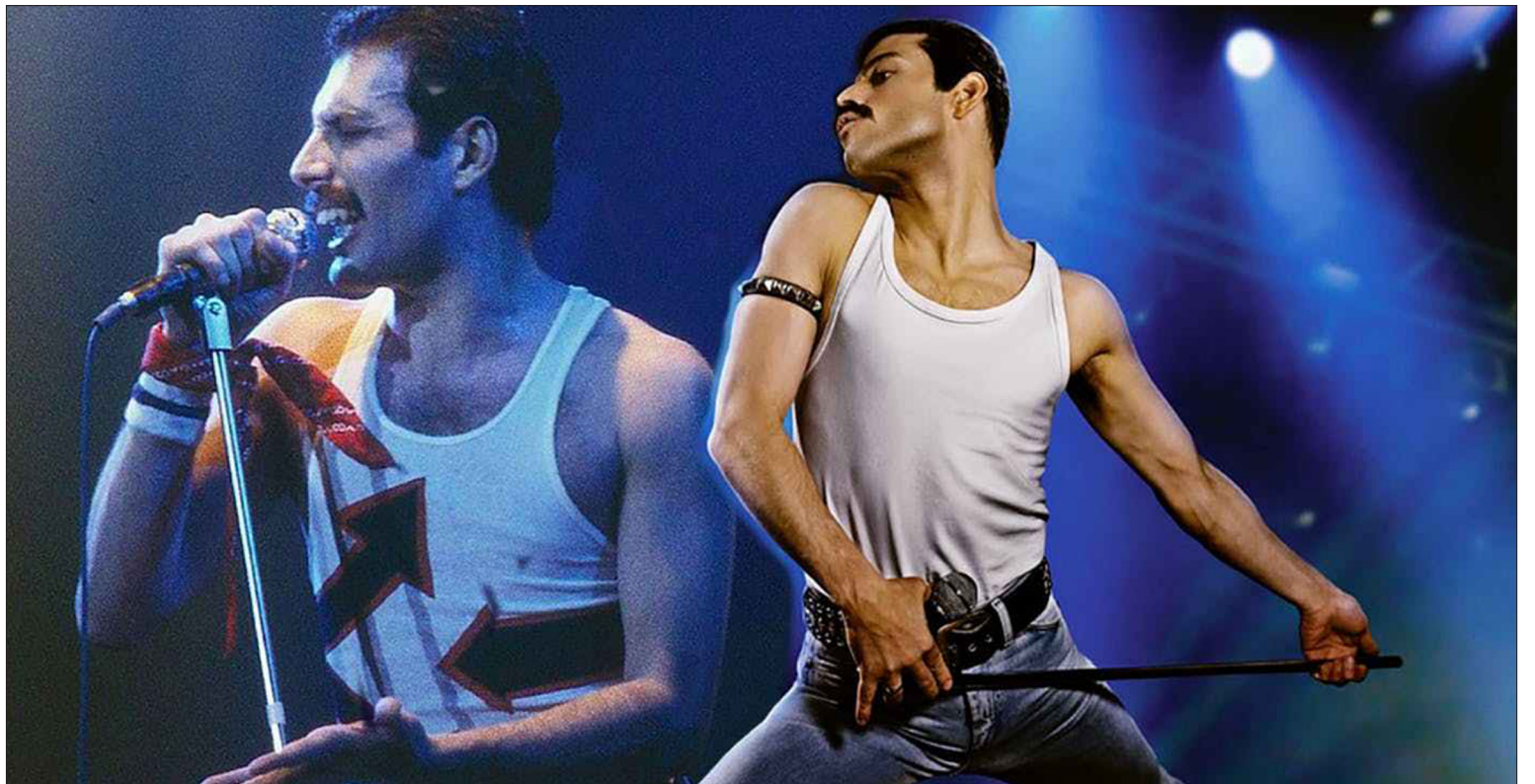
Queen Biopic: Mud on your face, a big disgrace

Continued from page 1

BY HUNTER HERSHEY
NEWS EDITOR

Ready Freddie? The film depicts multiple axes for the plot to hand on, seemingly by ever-wearing threads. His frequently difficult relationship with his conservatively portrayed Indian-Parsi family forms one. More impactful would be the depiction of his budding homosexuality which complicates his early marriage to Mary Austin (played by Lucy Boynton) — a relationship idealized through the film and a seemingly rare moment of absolute sincerity in part by the production team. The unknowingness of what to do with Mercury's famed, explicit homosexuality is almost tangible throughout the film. (This topic has led to multiple articles online and, as it would take the majority of the issue's paper-space to scrutinize accurately, I will direct you to Google for a more accurate explication of this particular shortcoming of the film.) Lastly, "Bohemian Rhapsody" hinges on the almost harmonious relationship between Mercury and his bandmates which, though seemingly fictionally, may lend itself to the truth after all.

Terribly clichéd, and rooted in scandal and debauchery, the film presents the squinted-eye glimpse into the nuances that actualize in reality. The architecture lends itself unapologetically to that of a poor representation of an egocentric, fame-driven retelling: a band rises to the top, tastes the profundity of good and evil, the misunderstood genius suffers and falls at the hand of his ego, and, obviously, eventually redeems himself for the drama-



RAMI MALEK's depiction of the charismatic Queen frontman Freddie Mercury is one of the few highlights of the disappointing PG-13 film "Bohemian Rhapsody." (Courtesy of Substream Magazine)

less ending we all prophesied once the pieces were set.

Pre-rated at PG-13, this film was left grasping at straws for what it could accurately represent. While I (here, the representation of the average moviegoer/Queen fanatic) entered possessing an incomplete knowledge of the life and happenings of Queen aside from their sound—explicitly, the precognition of their irreverent parties, emotional outbursts, substance abuse, et cetera—I still found the portrayal of said attributes to be hindered by the rating of the film. "Straight Outta Compton," the biopic surrounding the life and upcoming of the group NWA, was dissimilarly plagued; reassuring their viewers that the extravagant, unbecoming lives of these rappers were not only true,

to a creative, specious extent, but also available to be lived vicariously through the film they were attending.

The production team of "Bohemian Rhapsody," headlined by screenwriter Anthony McCarten (famous for his compositions of "Darkest Hour" and "The Theory of Everything") and credited director, Dexter Fletcher (who was the late-late-production replacement to Bryan Singer) manages to waste the astounding spectacle that is Queen by losing them amidst pageantry and visual definition instead of creating dramatic momentum or elaborate insight. Unfortunately, absurdly, the film is a plodding, superficially-minded, unmemorable affair in spite of Malek's lively undertaking to mimic Mercury's eye-catching theat-

ricality onstage and his colorful array of intriguing emotions.

Nonetheless, the film has its moments. Strewn throughout the two and half hour eternity, there in-lies scenes that are truly breathtaking: a true-to-time replication of the Live Aid's set down to the antique (or seemingly antique) Pepsi cups on the piano, the recording of the original song which lends its name to the title, arguments that lead, just for a moment, the audience to believe in any real tension throughout the film, and the creational processes behind the songs "We Will Rock You" and "Another One Bites the Dust." If this suits your curiosity, you will be half-satisfied. You will also be treated to multiple cuts of lip-syncing concerts that are shot magnificently; to their de-

fense, any attempt at recreating Mercury's voice would have dug their graves deeper. Just put: though the majority of the film finds itself to contain true-ish events, it ceases ever to feel remotely authentic.

The film rarely comes close to reincarnating the glorious and near god-like artifice of Queen themselves, a band whose concoction of sexual and musical codes holds as cornerstone phenomena in pop culture history. The film "Bohemian Rhapsody" incites a reminder that the group once existed while unfortunately failing to display the profound and life-shaping enigma that once was. Authenticity never fails: you would be better with YouTube and a stack of vinyl records.

Easy come, easy go.

Zimmer-Making room for EDM as "Real Music"

BY TERRILYN HO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The word 'zimmer' means room in German - the word also calls to mind the world famous score composer and record producer Hans Zimmer. However, this article is not about the etymology of a word or even the orchestration of movie scores. What it does involve, though, is music, specifically electronic dance music or EDM, as it is more commonly known.

Zimmer—yes, just Zimmer—is a Paris-based DJ and musician who has been on the music scene for quite some time now. Starting out as a DJ at sixteen, he eventually branched out to creating music when he was a 20-year-old living in Paris. Dividing his time between California and Paris, Zimmer has drawn inspiration and experience from both cultures, which have directly influenced his music. While he experiments with electronic music, Zimmer notes that it is a very expansive genre, and emphasizes that it is difficult for him to categorize his music into a single genre. In regard to his upcoming single, he states



ZIMMER draws inspiration from classical, jazz, hip hop, and pop (Courtesy of Reynald Philippe)

that he drew from genres like classical, jazz, hip hop, and pop.

Over the years, EDM has evolved and has grown in both style and popularity — the dynamic nature of the genre has given rise to an influx of artists looking to experiment and dabble with electronic sounds. Starting in the 60s, the precursor to EDM began with individuals who explored the realm of hip

hop, disco, and synth-pop.

Individuals like Jamaican-American DJ Kool Herc popularized heavy drum beats in hip hop, which led to a focus on the drum beats in electronic music. British synth-pop acts like Duran Duran featured the synthesizer as their dominant musical instrument. Eventually, various subgenres within EDM began to take root, some of which include techno,

house, rave, trance, dubstep, and electro.

While EDM is frequently associated with clubs and raves, its popularity has also begun to transcend the dark corners of a club with too many drunkenly-swaying, sweaty bodies. However, with respectable artists like Skrillex, Zedd, and Calvin Harris on the rise, it is apparent that there is a demand for it outside of the club/rave culture, so why is there still a lack of respect for the genre itself? Admittedly, I proclaim myself to be a music snob, but I do not think just anyone can create quality music, whether it be with an actual instrument or with the buttons of a computer.

There is clearly a dichotomy between what some people deem "real" musicians and those "fake, button-pushing musicians." At the end of the day, should the process really matter as long as the product is enjoyable? Does there need to be a certain amount of effort and talent clearly visible to the consumer before we deem an artist worthy of being called a real musician?

While technology has certainly made it easier for indi-

viduals to experiment in music, it also means that the music industry has become saturated with amateur artists looking for a way to break through and have their music be heard. Listeners are often overwhelmed with the influx of tracks that pervade their feeds. However, the ones that do stand out end up growing with their audience and go from being artists who enjoy making music to artists who enjoy making music for their fans. Zimmer emphasized that he wants people to put down their phones and interact when they are at his concert, "Being present and being in the moment is what I want the most for my fans to partake in when they're at my shows. I want to see their faces and the emotions that they feel when they are really listening."

Zimmer is currently on tour and will be coming to the Rickshaw Stop in San Francisco on November 14.

You can find Zimmer's work on his SoundCloud page: <https://soundcloud.com/zimmermusic>

His latest single, "Landing," can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOAF-O9v75M>.

CULTURE

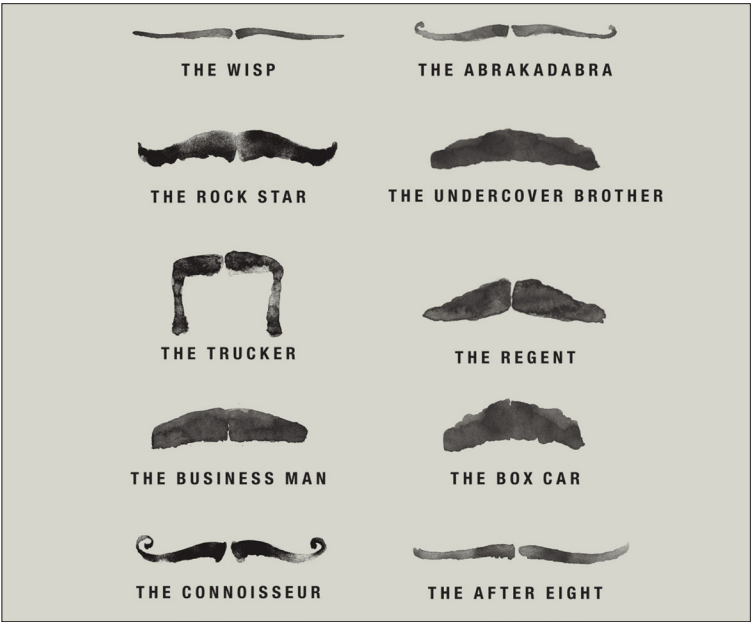
Movember and Men’s Health

BY JON SEISER
OPINION COLUMNIST

The time for lip ferrets, soup catchers and face foliage is upon us. No-shave November, also known as Movember, is the fall time counterpart to Mustache March. What a lovely time of year to see the handle-bar ‘stache and the Abe Lincoln beard grow for they provide warmth as the temperatures cool down. However, there is more to not shaving in November than is actually presented.

Having a great mustache makes you memorable. There are Ron Swanson’s (Nick Offerman) from Parks and Recreation, Yosemite Sam’s (Looney Tunes), and then there are the infamous 70’s mustaches—insert adult joke here. There were also plenty of historical individuals who had a grassy grin: Theodore Roosevelt, Wyatt Earp, Mark Twain, Albert Einstein, Pancho Villa, and Freddie Mercury. It is possible that having facial hair would open the door to greatness in our lives.

Movember is about support and awareness. Growing your Face Mullet in November is similar to wearing pink for breast cancer. It is about taking a stand for the health of men. As a man, I can tell you that I do not need a doctor to fix me – broken toe? I can fix it with a pain killer. Hurt back? Pain killer. What about prostate cancer or testicular cancer? I cannot fix that. Movember and the fur muzzles that begin to appear in the cold weather are about raising awareness of prostate and testicular cancer as well as raising awareness



Moustache Style Guide to help you get creative this Movember. (Courtesy of Movember.com)

for male suicide and the mental health of men. I know we like to Save the Tatas, which is an organization that supports breast cancer, but the balls are often forgotten. Do not forget the balls, they are essential for reproduction.

So, here is a little hairy history: Movember started in Australia back in 2003 to raise awareness for the health of men. Two friends were having a pint of their favorite alcoholic beverage and the idea formed. In 2004, the website was formed, and, by 2006, Movember became an official charity and began in New Zealand. In 2007, a partnership is formed with the Prostate Cancer Foundation, and the stubbly story began here in the United States. By 2009, the Movember received

official charity status in the United States and continued to grow year after year.

If you want to participate, there are a few rules to follow for the month of the man mane: register at us.movember.com/get-involved/moustaches, start with a freshly shaven face, and groom the lip warmer into a unique style. The goal is to let your snot mop start a conversation and spread the awareness the fact that three of four suicides are men, that one in nine men are diagnosed with prostate cancer, and that testicular cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancers among young men. With that being said, let your soup strainer, mouth brow, flavor saver, lip caterpillar, or face lace grow and spread the word!

Review: Netflix’s “The OA”

BY KENDALL DAWSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Out of the hundreds of selections of movies, documentaries, and series that Netflix provides on a daily basis, there are a few that may resonate emotionally as 2016’s “The OA.” The eight-episode Netflix original seems more as though it is the beginning of a movie franchise than a usual Netflix binge-worthy series. Every episode has the unique ability of diving deeper into the richly complex and ambitious narrative that its creators has outlined for the characters and its audience.

The premise of the story concerns a missing blind girl named Prairie, from a small town in Indiana, and after spending seven years in captivity, her return to her family with her sight fully recovered, seemingly without explanation. The audience is subjected to her narration of all events that take place, and it can be quickly inferred that there is far more to Prairie’s experience during her seven years of absence than the sensationalism surrounding the miracle of her regaining her sight. Those close to her can see Prairie’s struggles with reintegration into society and recognize that it is taking a physical toll on her. Prairie has difficulty regaining any sense of normalcy with people in her life due to an aversion to sharing any aspects of her experience with authority figures such as her parents and law enforcement. The only people that she finds suitable with whom to share her story are four local high-school students—all

somewhat ostracized from the various castes in the vast spectrum of traditional school hierarchy—and a teacher, who is battling with her own personal struggles. After realizing their unique connections and ties to each other, they embark on a journey that will alter their understanding of the world forever.

These occur within the first half hour of the opening episode. From there, the story weaves in a manner that one must experience uninterrupted and with full attention because the creators of the series tell multiple stories and blend the supernatural with the empirical world, which these six main characters share. The primary themes and motifs of this show explore near death experiences, the scientific perspectives concerning them, and the spiritual perspectives that seek to explain the phenomenon. The hero’s journey is also explored in an unconventional fashion due to the concentration on an ensemble cast instead of just one character. This allows the audience to witness and absorb the story in a manner that is not frequently found in the common narrative structure observed in Western visual arts.

“The OA” also gives its audience a plethora of subjects that are open to interpretation and concepts that are subjectively appealing to several varying schools of thought. There are some elements of these themes that are easily recognized such as the Christian visual themes, the multiverse theory, and examples of individuals that “come back” from a near death experience with what

some may call a divine gift. Then there are the subtle elements of the show that calls upon its audience to choose to share a belief in some part of the story, not in a forceful manner, but it requests that those watching exercise these beliefs using their own will, given the information at hand. The story suggests that if there is an error to be made in electing to believe one aspect of a person over another, that decision comes with a certain assumption of ignorance. In the case of “The OA,” that ignorance has been intentionally provided to the audience for the purpose of accepting that ignorance with the full understanding of sacrificing the iron-clad will of certain knowledge to accept something that they may not understand at the time to find something greater, beyond the scope of what is commonly accepted.

“The OA” tackles a litany of religious, philosophical, social, and cultural ideas and examines them for what they are. The show delves into how those who may seek a greater understanding of the world can manage to both exist among these constructs, thrive among them, as well as transcend them for whatever purpose the individual may desire. The dynamic of each character’s stories and their interactions with each other has created a truly unique experience for those who decide to indulge the show and it has genuinely changed the way that I’ve come to understand modern television and story structure for the better, give it a peek.

A Chat with KSMC Host Ariana Knigin

BY ANGELICA FIGUEROA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Testing, testing. Welcome to an Interview with a KSMC Host. Pause whatever you are doing and meet Ariana Knigin, or Ari for short. She is currently a fourth year JCL major at Saint Mary’s with hopes of becoming a teacher. She carries an infectious spirit in her everyday life, and despite her busy schedule as a Senior and CILSA Elf, she also finds time to be a KSMC radio host for the fourth year in a row.

On Friday nights, you can find her currently doing her radio show on the second floor of Ferroggiaro Hall. She graciously sat down and shared some of her stories with me.

Angelica Figueroa (AF): **How did you learn about the program?**

Ariana Knigin (Ari): “Freshman year. I just remember hearing events or seeing the radio being broadcasted during one of the fairs... (Also) one of my friends had a radio show. They asked me if I wanted to be an optional DJ and I tried it out. It was great.”

AF: **Why did you choose to become a KSMC Host?**

Ari: “I love music. I think music is just amazing. To have that little network or support center available for students that need that space. That was just something I felt like I would benefit with having, so I did that. I realized [being a KSMC host] was really relaxing and it provides a zen place for me. That’s why I continued after I tried it.”

AF: **What do you wish were different about the program?**

Ari: “I wish that the radio show was more known. I don’t think it’s necessarily the club’s fault, because we do as much as we can. On an institutional level, I wish that I could hear music playing in Cafe Louis [which are] played by students [which would] give the opportunity for students to broadcast their work and know that people on campus are [listening to us more]. I’ve had people that just came into my radio show not even knowing we had a radio station at our college and they were graduating. I think it would be great for there to be a way for people to acknowledge and know that that [KSMC is] there.”

AF: **What’s it like being a host? What’s rewarding about it?**

Ari: “It’s a fun environment because if you’re the kind of person who really likes to DJ at a friend’s party—and you take that seriously—you feel a lot of power in your show. It’s your pride and joy. You feel prideful in the sense it’s all you. It’s all controlled by you. It’s the ability to let people hear what you like and your interests in music, or anything, really.”

AF: **What are your outside interests?**

Ari: “I really like to go out with my friends and go explore new places and try new things.”

AF: **What are some artists/bands everyone should give a listen to?**

Ari: “Everyone should listen to Galantis, if people really like EDM. ... I’ve told so many people that if I were on my deathbed, if I could

have any band perform for me as I’m dying, it would be Earth, Wind, and Fire. Right after that, it would be AC/DC because they’re just iconic. One really cool band I really like is Hippocampus. They have really good tunes.”

AF: **What’s your go-to song right now?**

Ari: “Right now, it’s “thank u, next” by Ariana Grande. That is what has been on replay. It’s because they say Ari in the song—it’s my theme song as of right now, as of 2018.”

AF: **What’s it like hosting on a Friday night?**

Ari: “It’s not as exciting as a normal, typical college student’s Friday night. But really, at the end of the day, when I’m having a really stressful week and I need to unwind, that is something I know will always relax me and always make me happy. For some people, it might not necessarily be the most ideal situation, but for me, that is my perfect place.”

AF: **What’s your favorite thing about being a host?**

Ari: “My favorite thing is when my friends come. It gets so fun because they started doing it more during our junior year. That’s when I had big groups of friends come to my radio show and it’s literally a dance party. It’s so fun. It’s like karaoke mixed with a dance party in a mellow room, full of everybody you love and that just sounds like the best thing ever, personally.”

AF: **Why should people apply for KSMC Hosting?**

Ari: “If you enjoy music and you want to have a musical outlet, then I’d say why not [apply to be a host]? There really isn’t any negatives to it. You get 100% control of your show and you can receive a quarter credit doing it. I just feel like you have all these resources on campus—why not try it because if you know you don’t like it, then you don’t have to do it. But if you could have the opportunity to try it, then why not?”

AF: **Do you have any tips for someone looking to become a KSMC Host?**

Ari: “The first couple of [broadcast] is very rocky because it’s just awkward. You’re talking to a microphone and that’s it, but just have fun with it. You’re there to go have fun and listen to music you love or do something you love. If you ever feel nervous, and you have friends who are outgoing or friends that make you feel comfortable, invite them and co-host with them. I originally started co-hosting with my roommate and that’s what made me finally want and feel confident enough to do my own radio show.”

AF: **Has this been a learning experience for you? If so, how?**

Ari: “It’s helped me realize my way of providing self-care for myself. I do need something in my life to help provide self-care and I think I’ve found my place in the radio show.”

It was an absolute pleasure to sit down and get to better know one of our very own KSMC Host Ari. You can catch her and her music from 8-9 PM on Fridays. This is Angelica Figueroa, signing off. Until next time.

OPINION

HOT TAKE SNACK BREAK

Grab your favorite snack and see what your peers have to say about the world this week - read 'em while they're hot!

SKINNY JEANS? CANCELLED

Skinny jeans for men? Gross. There is no point to it. I don't understand why this is a style. How can someone run or even work in this type of jeans? It appears that anything other than standing still is a dreadfully thought-out task. Any movement could rip the screaming denim at the seat and prove to be even more of an embarrassment than the already embarrassingly squeezed "ego". I imagine that the amount of stretch allowed is slim to none and that it cuts off air flow to the brain, encouraging the already bad idea of wearing such a product. Please stop.

JON SEISER
OPINION COLUMNIST

FLARE IT UP

Take a look at any fall fashion editorial and you will notice flared pants are beginning to make their way back into our wardrobes and our hearts. After years of being off trend, flares have come back in a big way. A nod to the past as well as an expansion on current trends, flares can be spotted in popular brands ranging from Balmain, Free People, and even fast fashion sites like Fashion Nova. Not only are they fashion-forward, flares are very flattering. Flared jeans can accentuate curves or create them for people of all shapes and sizes, all while making an eye-catching statement. Paired with vintage accessories or a graphic tee, flares are a surefire way to upgrade your closet this fall.

LAUREN SCOTT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

SURPRISED PIKACHU

The average fresh meme lasts two to three days before being relegated to the "dead" pile, and yet for the past two weeks my feed is filled with this oversaturated meme every time I open up Reddit, Snapchat, and Twitter. And as surprised as Pikachu's expression is in the meme, I'm more surprised that this meme has not been drained dry by now. While I love a good format as much as the next guy, two weeks is far too long for this meme to have been around. This meme is predictable- not only because it's been used so much, but also because it highlights the larger problem in our meme templates simply being the same concept but with a different image- you could swap Pikachu out for 'Am I A Joke To You' or 'Gru's Plan' and it would be exactly the same. Where is the innovation, the forward push of the frontier into new meme territory? Our meme culture is stagnating, and it's time to move on.

KEVIN BASMADJIAN
NEWS EDITOR

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Uh oh, your hottest take is all dressed up with no where to go. We want to publish it. Come to the next Collegian storyboarding session, Monday, November 5th, or shoot us an email at smccollegian@gmail.com.

We need answers: does voting solve anything?

BY GABRIELLA RAMIREZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was an early October day in the fall of 2016 when I sat on the cold stone bench a few feet away from my second period class, AP Government. There were fifteen minutes before the sound of that automated bell would signal the start of my next quiz, and books and past papers sat untouched by my side. In the time I should have spent studying, I found myself distracted by news regarding the upcoming presidential election. I had always lived in a house where politics were of utmost importance, and I knew the outcome would have a profound effect on my future.

When November came around, I watched helplessly as my friends and family members went to the polls, and I resented being just short of 18. I hated not having a say, and I felt small and inferior. My dad had always told me, "if you don't vote, don't complain," and it stuck with me as I watched the conclusion of the results with a lot on my mind and plenty to say.

It is no surprise that the most common reason eligible voters do not go to the polls on election day is due to the myth that their own individual vote will not matter. After all, with millions of people in the U.S., why should it?

The individual vote is not an insignificant or unaccounted for action, as seen throughout history. Here are some events that, according to the Knox County Clerk, Scott G. Erikson, demonstrate the importance of your vote:

- "Richard Nixon, not John F. Kennedy, would have become President of the U.S. in 1960 if one person from each voting place had voted differently.
- If just one U.S. Senator had voted differently, U.S. President Andrew Johnson would have been removed from office in 1867.
- Texas might not have become



MIDTERM ELECTIONS have ended and our nation can now question the effects of voting (Courtesy of CNN).

part of the United States in 1845 if one U.S. Senator had voted differently. The vote in the U.S. Senate was 27-25 to invite Texas to become a state. If it had been a tie, Texas would not have been asked to become part of the Union."

It is therefore unreasonable to conclude that your vote doesn't matter. Moreover, voting is not a privilege, but a right and responsibility held by all U.S. citizens. No matter your party or beliefs, voting is a golden opportunity to make your voice heard. If taxes feel uncomfortably high, if minimum wage feels too small, or if it feels like citizens in marginalized groups need more services,

then election day is the opportunity to say so in order to contribute to progress and change.

With a record-breaking voter turnout exceeding 100 million according to CBS News, the votes cast in this 2018 midterm election have utilized their potential to change the course of history. A wave of historic wins include the first openly gay man elected as a U.S. governor, the first Muslim woman and the first Native American women in Congress, as well as the youngest woman to ever be elected into Congress. The next time elections come around, request for that mail in ballot or drive down to the polls, and be the change this country needs.

Institution of marriage doesn't define love

BY JON SEISER
OPINION COLUMNIST

Let me start with a little background: I got married at 24 years old, and I have been married six years. I would say that I got married early in life, but I have also accomplished a lot with my time on Earth. I have skydived, been in a few motorcycle accidents, and have held a relatively secure job. Between the ages of 18 and 25, I learned about love, loss, friendship and suffering. Marriage was something I didn't want to be a part of because my parents were divorced and a lot of my friends had parents who were also divorced. Growing up seeing this made marriage taboo to me. Whenever I thought of marriage, the automatic association was divorce. I believed that love was ruined by marriage.

I attribute a lot of this to the culture of "love = marriage" and the naïveté of youth. At the adult age of eighteen years old, hormones are rampant in the human body, which change everything from bodily functions to appearance. For most eighteen is the age of high school graduates; how can this be a great time to get married? You don't even know who you are yet, as you are still growing, changing, adapting and forming opinions for your new life as an adult. In my 20's I learned about bills and financial responsibility, but



A STUDENT discusses the spectrum of the necessity of marriage and what it stands for (Courtesy of Wikipedia).

I also learned about love and hurt. I had my heart broken more than a few times and broke some hearts as well. This is important because dating helps you to realize what you would like and dislike in a partner. More important than that, you learn about what you like and don't like. Dating gives you an opportunity to learn about yourself and how you define love.

What I found was that marriage is an institution that has the benefit of some tax breaks, and that it helps your credit score; other than that the concept of marriage is outdated. A piece of paper isn't necessary to love someone. I don't need a contract to love my wife. However, the

symbolism of marriage and the eternity to which two people become bound, I do believe in. I believe that marriage is about two people — man and man, woman and woman, woman and man — who are willing to be together until death. That is a long time when you are eighteen, considering that the average person lives to be about 80 years old.

This is a subject that could be debated for hours, even years, but the truth of it is wait until you know who you are to get married. Because when you know that, you can love yourself, thus allowing you to love one else completely and whole heartedly. That is why my wife and I are still married; we give everything

SPORTS

2018 NBA season storylines thus far

BY DIEGO VASQUEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The NBA season is just over a month old and there have already been a few notable stories. From a dominant start from the champions, to a sudden resurgence from a former MVP, this is proving to be the makings of a memorable year. The reigning champions, the Golden State Warriors, have had an impressive start so far, building a 10-2 record through their first 12 games. Steph Curry has been shooting incredibly to start the season, and Kevin Durant is looking like the Finals MVP he was last season. Klay Thompson has been able to have a slow start to the season without having a negative impact on the results. He did break the NBA record for most 3s in a game against the Chicago Bulls, however, and with potential Defensive Player of the Year Draymond Green looking good, and with Demarcus Cousins waiting to heal from his injury, the Warriors have more than enough talent to continue their dynasty.

The biggest move in the offseason was, without a doubt, LeBron James moving from the Cleveland Cavaliers to the Los Angeles Lakers. Not only did he join a very young core of Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram and others in LA, but he brought along other



THE GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS take off and continue their championship caliber play in 2018. (Courtesy of Sports Illustrated)

veterans from the league such as Lance Stephenson, Rajon Rondo, and Javale McGee. The transition has been unsurprisingly difficult for them as they have started with a 5-6 record. With the increase in pressure on coach Luke Walton, the Lakers are expected to have an up-and-down season as they try and get back into the playoffs.

With LeBron out of the Eastern Conference, the race to be the top seed in the East has been opened up. The Cavaliers are looking like a last place team, so other teams like the Toronto Raptors, the Boston Celtics, and the Milwaukee Bucks look the most likely to grab hold of the East. The Raptors have a new star man in Kawhi Leonard, after trading DeMar DeRozan for him from the Spurs, and he has fit in really well. The

Celtics are healthy once again with Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward returning to the lineup, and this is probably to most well-rounded team in the East. The Bucks might have the new best player in the East in the form of the Greek Freak, Giannis Antetokounmpo. Not only do they have his sheer dominance, but with underrated stars in Khris Middleton and Eric Bledsoe, as well as a new center in Brook Lopez, the Bucks can surprise a few this season.

For many fans, the biggest story of the NBA so far is the revival of the 2011 MVP, Derrick Rose. He was once considered to be one of the top players in the league, but in 2012, he tore the ACL in his left knee, and was then plagued with injuries ever since. Last season,

he failed to stay healthy with the Cavs, was traded to Utah, and was immediately released. He eventually found himself playing for the Minnesota Timberwolves. The Timberwolves have their own, Jimmy Butler-sized issues this season, but a shining light has been the impressive start Rose has had thus far. On Halloween Night, Derrick Rose led his team to a victory against the Utah Jazz with a career-high 50 points, which prompted an emotional reaction from Rose after the game. Then, he scored a career high 7 three-pointers in a loss against the Lakers. These performances have been the result of an incredibly difficult few years for Rose, but with more hard work, we may be witnessing a career renaissance.

Jimmy Butler is great, but might not be worth the trade



JIMMY BUTLER is one of the best players at his position, but his intense, Koby-like approach to the game has had negative effects in the past (SLAM)

BY HENRY PENALOSA
SPORTS EDITOR

It was announced last Friday that Jimmy Butler was traded from the Minnesota Timberwolves to the Philadelphia 76ers. What is next for both teams? Well, Philly gets an immediate upgrade on the wing. Jimmy Butler has proven that he is a top 5 guard through his ability to defend, score, and most importantly, come up in clutch moments. But what sort of effect will he have on the team besides his production. Let us not forget why he has been traded in the first place. His intense work ethic and pres-

ence in the locker room made for a toxic stint in Minnesota. It only lasted a year before Butler made it very clear his distaste for the work ethic that he saw from budding stars Andrew Wiggins and Karl Anthony-Towns. Funny thing is that he had a point. I mean, by this point the T-Wolves should be elite, with the stars that they have been trying to develop, plus the addition of Jimmy Butler. But somewhere along the way, it just did not pan out how we all thought.

Wiggins hasn't become the two-way monster that we all imagined, and KAT can not seem to learn any sort of defen-

sive footwork or fundamentals. Gorgui Dieng never learned how to shoot. Kris Dunn and Zach Lavine became expendable and are now flourishing in Chicago after being sent over in the original Jimmy Butler trade that brought him over to Minnesota. Coach Tom Thibodeau has not evolved his coaching style from 2008.

With the 76ers, Jimmy Butler has two wing players who absolutely cannot shoot the ball: Markelle Fultz and Ben Simmons. Twitter, in it's all-knowing existence, was already blowing up with memes and gifs about Butler chewing out the young Fultz for completely

losing his shooting stroke after college, and cowering in fear. I would like to think that Jimmy would realize that he is on a championship contender now, and that he should be thankful for the opportunity he has been handed, but maybe that just is not the way Jimmy Butler thinks. His whole life he has had to work extra to get where he is. For a short time in his life, Butler was homeless. Butler does

Wiggins hasn't become the two-way monster that we all imagined, and KAT can not seem to learn any sort of defensive footwork or fundamentals

not know how to settler.

The nice thing is that Minnesota did well for themselves in this deal. They sent away a bad locker room presence and got back Dario Saric and Robert Covington, two young wing players who can score and defend at a high level. These acquisitions mean that the T-Wolves are still in a great position to grow as a team and be a great basketball team in a year or two.

This trade shakes up the east in a new way, creating an early race for top dog between the 76ers, Celtics, Raptors and Bucks. It will be an exciting NBA season if all of these teams stay relatively healthy and they end up competing late in the season for home court advantage.

Sports this week

MEN'S BASKETBALL



November 14 @ 6pm
at New Mexico State

MEN'S RUGBY



November 17 @ 1pm
vs. San Jose Seahawks

VOLLEYBALL



November 15 @ 7pm
vs. Brigham Young University

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



November 17 @ 6pm
@ Oregon State

CROSS COUNTRY



November 17th
NCAA Championships
Madison, Wisconsin

SPORTS

2018 NFL Playoff Predictions: Part One (the NFC)

BY MATTHEW MCFETRIDGE
SPORTS EDITOR

The LA Rams’ performance last Sunday turned me into a false prophet. I assumed their undefeated record and dominant offense would lead them to a perfect season. I was wrong. I forgot about Drew Brees’ golden arm and players like Marcus Peters choking when it matters most. So, with that embarrassment behind me, I am now going to predict the 2018 Playoff Bracket for the NFC. We will start close to home, in the NFC West.

NFC WEST

Sadly, as a Niners fan, I cannot predict that my team will be heading to the playoffs this season. Many media outlets believed their late success in 2017 and offseason additions made them a serious contender. However, Jerriek McKinnon’s ACL didn’t make it past the practice field, and the chosen one Jimmy G tore his ACL just as he was heating up. With these setbacks, the NFC West will go to the Rams. The Cardinals will compete with the Niners for who finishes last, and the Seahawks may have a shot at a wildcard spot. “May” is rather generous word as Seattle is playing without all-pro safety Earl Thomas and barely won in week 4 against the two and six Cardinals. With that being said, we jump to the NFC East, where the second placed Philadelphia Eagles have a much better chance at taking that wildcard spot the Seahawks are playing for.

NFC EAST

Quarterback Carson Wentz is back in MVP form, and the Eagles defense is shutting offenses down. Their four and



THE NFL PLAYOFFS are a short seven weeks away and in the NFC, there are a few teams who have surprised us all in their performance so far. (Courtesy of The Associated Press)

four record may cause some to speculate, but the Eagles were within six points in each of their losses and played well overall. Their lackluster run game is also cause for concern, but their prolific passing game will give them a shot at another ring. The Washington Redskins on the other hand have enjoyed an exceptional season from thirty-three-year-old Adrian Peterson. His league fifth highest rushing yards make the Redskins a force with the ground game, and their top ten defense is a force to be reckoned with. Washington will win the division with Philly close behind in a wildcard spot, unfortunately for the Cowboys and Giants, they will watch the postseason from home this year. One team that won’t be watching from home are the Chicago Bears, as they look like the favorite in the NFC North.

NFC NORTH

The best thing the Bears did in maybe the history of their

organization was add Khalil Mack. In just his first game with Chicago, Mack had a sack, a fumble recovery, and a pick-six. His addition to the squad has pushed the Bears defense to allowing the third fewest yards in the league and the fourth fewest points. QB Mitchell Trubisky is playing close to his 2nd overall pick potential and their run game is one of the best in the NFC. They will have to keep a close eye on Minnesota though, as the Vikings are enjoying new QB Kirk Cousins’ best season yet. Minnesota is also home to the league’s best receiver, undrafted Adam Thielen. His performance this year, along with Latavius Murray’s return to success, makes the Vikings offense one of the league’s best. Their defense has yet to play up this its full potential, however, they have the key players to compete with high powered offense’s. The Bears will take the NFC North and the Vikings

will take the final NFC wildcard spot. And as much as I root for Aaron Rodgers, the Packers just can’t get it done this year, and the three and five Lions are paying Matt Stafford 27 million to throw for fourteen touchdowns (so far).

NFC SOUTH

The Saints’ Drew Brees broke the all-time passing yard record this year in week five against the Redskins. Since then, he’s lead the Saints to eight and one with their victory last week over the formerly undefeated Rams. With Alvin Kamara, Michael Thomas, and Mark Ingram, the Saints offense averages the most points in the NFC. Their ability to consistently put points on the board will lead to their victory of the NFC South. As for the rest of the division, I don’t see the remaining teams playing any extra football this year. The Carolina Panthers are in fact six and three, having a better record currently than

my wildcard predicted Vikings and Eagles. However, their defense’s performance against the Steelers showed how porous their secondary is. In allowing five passing touchdowns the Panthers showed they can’t defend against a strong passing game. Or a strong run game for that matter, as they allowed James Conner another decent game on the ground. As for the Buccaneers, their mistrust in Fitzmagic brought two Jameis Winston lead losses while their absent defense is likely better off resting and watching from the sidelines. The Atlanta Falcons need defensive help too, as Matt Ryan and Julio Jones can only do so much on offense.

With the Rams, Eagles, Redskins, Bears, Vikings, and Saints earning playoff spots, it will be interesting to see how they match up with the AFC playoff contenders. Tune in next week as I predict my choices for the AFC bracket.

Saint Mary’s B-ball Prepares for Lift Off in 2018-19

BY NATE POST
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Moraga, California has a reputation for quiet, but around this time of year everyone gets a little more excited because basketball season is rapidly approaching. This season is going to be interesting mostly because the team lost much of its leaders from last season. Jock Landale, Emmett Naar, Cullen Neal, and Calvin Hermanson have all moved on and are playing professional basketball around the world. These 4 players accounted for just over 47 points per game. It is obvious to say the Gaels have many shoes to fill.

This being the case, they will be leaning more heavily on junior point guard Jordan Ford. Despite only averaging just over 11 points per game, he began to show leadership and potential stardom towards the end of the season. As we all know, one guy cannot carry a team for a whole season in basketball. In this result the team will also likely be leaning on redshirt Junior Tanner Krebs, Senior Jordan Hunter, redshirt Freshman Kristers Zoriks, red-shirt Sophomore Malik Fitts, and transfer Aaron Menzies to step up in big ways throughout the

season. Don’t be surprised if for the first part of the season head coach, Randy Bennett, tries various lineups and combinations to see what works best. Unlike last year, where a lot of the players were already proven, this year the players have something to prove. With this, I would expect a lot of them to get minutes. Ford is likely to get much of the attention from opposing defenses, so these are the spots where these other players will need to step up.

Don’t be surprised if for the first part of the season head coach, Randy Bennet, tries various lineups and combinations to see what works best.

The Gaels will start of the season with a few extremely winnable games, hopefully resulting in the players settling in before the games begin to get tougher. Their third game of the season could potentially be a tough one when they travel to New Mexico State to take on the Aggies. Later in the non-conference sched-



SAINT MARY’S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA MEN’S BASKETBALL have a new look to them after three starters graduated. (Courtesy of SMC Gaels)

ule they play Utah State in the MGM Resorts Classic, followed by Arizona State or Mississippi State assuming they beat the Big Blue. Towards the end of this portion of the schedule the Gaels are slated to play number 23 LSU in Las Vegas. This could potentially be a statement game before conference play begins a few weeks later. Expect the Gaels to play more close games

in conference then last year. Throughout conference play, the Gaels will play both BYU and Gonzaga, which will most likely be huge games, given they take care of business against the other teams in conference. The final game of the season against the Bulldogs of Gonzaga at home could potentially allow the Gaels to make a statement before the selection committee picks the

March Madness participants. With not many expectations for the season, the Gaels should not feel too much pressure, if any. Last year, they were the preseason picks to win the WCC which placed a lot of pressure on them. With the loss of four key players, the Gaels should be able to play loose this season, hopefully resulting in a trip to March Madness in the end.